



H.R. 1216 -- Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1216 is being considered on the House floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Janice Schakowsky (D-IL) on February 27, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 1216 is expected to be considered on the House floor on December 19, 2007.

BACKGROUND

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a report in 2002 that found more than 9,160 children are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries relating to a nontraffic incident. According to KidsandCars.org, nearly 1,000 children have died in nontraffic incidents since 1999. In 2005, 222 children were killed in nontraffic incidents.

Cameron Gulbransen was 2 years old when he was runover as his father backed out of their driveway.

SUMMARY

The bill requires the Secretary to issue regulations for light motor vehicles, requiring power windows and panels to automatically reverse direction when they detect an obstruction to prevent children from being trapped, injured, or killed.

Additionally, the bill would require regulations requiring a rearward visibility performance standard that provides drivers with a means for detecting the presence of a person or object behind the vehicle to prevent death and injury resulting from backing incidents.

These regulations would be phased-in and all new light trucks would have to comply with the regulations within 3 ½ years.

The bill also would require regulations for light trucks (manufactured after September 1, 2010 that are equipped with an automatic transmission that includes a "park position) to require a system that requires the service brake to be depressed before the transmission can be shifted out of 'park'. The Secretary is also required to publish the make and model of light trucks that are not in compliance with these regulations.

The bill also requires the Secretary to establish and maintain a database of injuries and deaths in nontraffic, noncrash events involving light motor vehicles.

H.R. 1216 requires the Secretary to supplement an existing or create a new consumer information program relating to child safety to provide information about hazards to children in nontraffic, noncrash incident situations.

COST

A Congressional Budget Cost Estimate is not available at this time.

STAFF CONTACT

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